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PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
GENEVA

RIGHT OF REPLY

BY H.E. AMBASSADOR WISBER LOEIS

ON ITEM 6

GENEVA, 19 AUGUST 1988

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BY
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INDONESIAN OBSERVER DELEGATION
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Mr. Chairman,

Since accusations have been levelled against my country regarding self-determination and the alleged violation of human rights in the provinces of East Timor and Irian Jaya, my delegation is left with no choice but to respond in order to clarify certain points. It is indeed regrettable that once again this august body has been abused by certain speakers and particularly by the distinguished Ambassador of Portugal in an exercise of a non-issue.

Firstly, I would like to reiterate that there is no question of an invasion or annexation of East Timor, since its independence through integration with the Republic of Indonesia took place in full accord with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and principles VI, VIII and IX of resolution 1541 (XV).

Secondly, in claiming that violations of human rights exist in East Timor, they conveniently ignore, as they have done on numerous occasions in the past, the independent findings of numerous distinguished visitors to the province of East Timor, including foreign journalists, dignitaries and politicians. Also ignored are the extensive activities of international humanitarian organisations, including the United Nations own agencies which have been operating in the province for several years now. In this way the positive findings of among others, the Portuguese journalist and editor of the magazine "Tempo", Mr. Nuno Rocha and the comments of a visiting member of the European Parliament, Mr. Jansen Van Raay, are likewise ignored, despite the fact that these

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independent and objective observers have first hand knowledge of the true situation in the province and they have refuted all allegations of violations of human rights there. The positive comments of Prof. Julio Dutari, a priest from Ecuador, who is also Vice President of the International Catholic Universities and Prof. Swan Restor, a priest from Canada who visited East Timor while attending the 16th meeting of the International Federation of Catholic Universities held in Indonesia have also been ignored. Similarly, the Portuguese delegation and other speakers take no account of the fruits of the hard work of the Government and people of the province in developing their economic infrastructure and increasing their educational and medical services - all of which were neglected during the colonial period. It is apparent to all that such progress can only have been accomplished in an environment of political stability and security and that allegations of a situation of dramatic conflict are wholly unfounded. Indeed, East Timor has seen more development and progress in 12 years of integration with Indonesia than it ever did under 450 years of colonial rule by Portugal.

Mr. Chairman,

It is pertinent to note that at this very moment in time, from 14-20 August an observer delegation comprising of some mebers of the European Parliament is visiting East Timor to see for themselves the true situation in the province. This delegation consists of two Dutch representatives including Mr. Jansen Van Raay, and one each from Britain, France and the Federal Republic of Germany.

As a matter of principle, humanitarian organisations which are genuinely committed to promoting the welfare of the local population are always welcome in the province. Only those organisations which have scant interest in the wellbeing of the East Timorese have been discouraged from visiting the province since their actions constitute no more than a timewasting exercise which does nothing to constructively help the people of the province.

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Mr. Chairman,

We would like to take this opportunity to refer to the on-going dialogue between Portugal and Indonesia under the auspices of the Secretary General of the United Nations which commenced about five years ago. It goes without saying that such dialogue is a two way process. Its success depends on the sincerity of both sides, not only on Indonesia but also on Portugal. Indonesia has been time and again disappointed by the attitude of the Portuguese Government in this regard. While outwardly professing to be working towards a solution through the dialogue under the auspices of the Secretary General of the United Nations, the Portuguese Government has done little constructively towards this end but instead, chooses to consistently and unjustifiably attack Indonesia by repeating baseless and slanderous depictions of the situation in East Timor. My delegation believes that it is time for the Portuguese Government to cease its twofaced policy and to make up its mind whether it wishes to continue to engage in a slander campaign against Indonesia or to constructively work towards a mutually acceptable solution in the UN forum.

Another point I would like to make relates to the references to the province of Irian Jaya raised by the representative of a certain NGO.

As you are aware, the people of Irian Jaya exercised their right to self determination under the auspices of the United Nations on the basis of the agreement of 15 August 1962 between Indonesia and the Netherlands. The people's subsequent decision to re-integrate with the Republic of Indonesia in 1969 was indeed, approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations that same year. Since then, Irian Jaya has become an integral part of the Republic of Indonesia, therefore my delegation categorically rejects any attempt to interfere in the internal affairs my country for such action is in blatant violation of Article 2, Paragraph 7 of the United Nations Charter which safeguards the territorial integrity and sovereignty of member states.

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In this connection, I would like to add that the allegation concerning Indonesia's transmigration programme as if it is being carried out against the interests of the indigenous people is preposterous. I wish to reiterate here that the transmigration programme constitutes a national endeavour which has been in existence since the early days of independence and even before. The programme is directed towards the achievement of nationally balanced economic progress. It takes fully into account the preservation of the various pluralistic characteristics of the region within the framework of the national identity.

Furthermore, I would like to make it clear that in no way have the people of Irian Jaya been regarded as inferior to other Indonesian citizens since they possess equal rights and responsibilities with the rest of the people, as guaranteed by the Constitution and the State philosophy of Indonesia.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to touch briefly now upon the accusations concerning violations of human rights in the province of East Timor during the civil war. My delegation feels it necessary to emphasize that it cannot be held accountable for irresponsible acts in which it played no part. Fretilin and Portugal and not Indonesia were the guilty parties in the tragic train of events which caused much suffering and loss of life to the East Timorese during the civil war.

As regards other accusations including one on the so-called restriction of telecommunications facilities in East Timor, due to the limited time available to my delegation to give an elaborate response, at this juncture I merely wish to refer to the Working Paper which is also referred to by the distinguished Ambassador of Portugal, issued recently by the UN Secretariat No. A/A.C. 109/961 of 26 July 1988, especially paragraph 27 pages 6 and 7. This document will clarify various aspects of the human rights situation in East Timor which might

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be of interest to the members of the Sub-Commission.

As for the allegations of birth control which was referred to by the distinguished Ambassador of Portugal as being more developed in East Timor than in other parts of Indonesia, I also want to refer to the same document, page 2, paragraph 2, and I quote : "The 1980 census recorded the total population of the territory as 555.350 and in 1986 it was estimated at 676.000" - end of quote. The ratio is approximately 20.000 births each year, which is equal to 3.6%, while the percentage of other parts of Indonesia is less than 2.2%. These figures need no further comment since they are self-explanatory.

It is indeed regrettable to listen once again to certain speakers attempting to make political capital by accusing Indonesia of violating human rights. I can only repeat that the Republic of Indonesia is a democratic state whose Constitution and national ideology, the Pancasila guarantee and promote respect for human rights. We therefore reject these baseless accusations.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.